

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Joseph A. HERMAN *et al.*RECEIVED  
CENTRAL FAX CENTER

SEP 29 2004

Serial No.: 09/649,400

Examiner: BAYAT, B.B.

Filed: August 26, 2000

Art Unit: 3621

FOR: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR VIRTUAL SEALED-BID  
COMPETITIONS HELD OVER A COMMUNICATIONS  
NETWORKCERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8(a)  
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS  
BEING DEPOSITED WITH THE UNITED STATES POSTAL  
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ADDRESSED TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O.  
BOX 1450, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450.ON 1-7-04  
Jonathan A Bay  
REGISTRATION NO. 35064  
DATE 1-7-04Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME  
UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.136 (a)

Sir:

Pursuant to Patent Office Rule 136(a), applicant hereby respectfully requests a retroactive extension of three (3) months, namely until January 7, 2004, for responding to the Official Action dated July 7, 2003, in the above-identified application.

Applicant submits herewith the fee required in connection with the requested extension, namely \$475.00. Applicants claim small entity status under 37 C.F.R. §1.27.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 1-7-04

Docket No. 401-8

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